

1           1.    A method comprising:  
2                 wirelessly linking a plurality of shopping carts  
3    within a retail facility through a local area network based  
4    in the retail facility; and  
5                 enabling the carts to exchange information  
6    through said network.

1           2.    The method of claim 1 wherein wirelessly linking  
2    includes providing wireless access to a server by a  
3    plurality of carts within a retail facility.

1           3.    The method of claim 1 including providing a  
2    processor-based device on a shopping cart to retail  
3    customers that wirelessly communicates with said server.

1           4.    The method of claim 3 including enabling  
2    customers to activate said device by swiping a credit card  
3    through a slot in said device.

1           5.    The method of claim 1 including receiving audible  
2    communications from said carts.

1           6.    The method of claim 1 including enabling carts to  
2    communicate via text messages with one another over said  
3    network.

1           7.    The method of claim 1 including pushing  
2   electronic files to the carts.

1           8.    The method of claim 1 including providing  
2   information about the current location of a processor-based  
3   device associated with a cart.

1           9.    The method of claim 8 including providing  
2   information about the cart's location to the server.

1           10.   The method of claim 9 including pushing  
2   information to the cart depending on the cart's current  
3   location.

1           11.   An article comprising a medium storing  
2   instructions that enable a processor-based system to:  
3                wirelessly link a plurality of shopping carts  
4   within a retail facility through a local area network based  
5   in the retail facility; and  
6                enable the carts to exchange information through  
7   said network.

1           12.   An article of claim 11 further storing  
2   instructions that enable the processor-based system to be  
3   accessed wirelessly by a plurality of carts within a retail  
4   facility.

1           13. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
3 recognize a processor-based device on a shopping cart used  
4 by a customer in response to a credit card swipe through a  
5 slot in said device.

1           14. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
3 receive audible communications from said carts.

1           15. The article of claim 14 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
3 broadcast audio files to said carts.

1           16. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
3 enable the carts to communicate via text messages with one  
4 another over said network.

1           17. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to push  
3 electronic files to the carts.

1           18. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to

3 provide information about the current location of a  
4 processor-based device associated with a cart.

1 19. The article of 18 further storing instructions  
2 that enable the processor-based system to determine the  
3 cart's location.

1 20. The article of claim 19 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to push  
3 information to a cart depending on the cart's current  
4 location.

1 21. A system comprising:  
2 a shopping cart;  
3 a processor mounted on said cart; and  
4 a storage coupled to said processor to wirelessly  
5 link a plurality of carts within a retail facility through  
6 a local area network based in the retail facility and  
7 enable carts to exchange information through said network.

1 22. The system of claim 21 including a housing, said  
2 processor mounted in said housing.

1 23. The system of claim 22 wherein said housing is  
2 adjustably mountable on said cart.

1        24. The system of claim 22 wherein said cart includes  
2 a handle and said housing is mounted on said handle.

1        25. The system of claim 21 further including a  
2 wireless transceiver.

1        26. The system of claim 21 further including an  
2 interface to enable network communications.

1        27. The system of claim 21 including a position  
2 locating device coupled to said processor.

1        28. The system of claim 21 including an audio  
2 transducer coupled to said processor.

1        29. The system of claim 21 including a card reader  
2 coupled to said processor.

1        30. The system of claim 21 including a bar code ,  
2 scanner coupled to said processor.